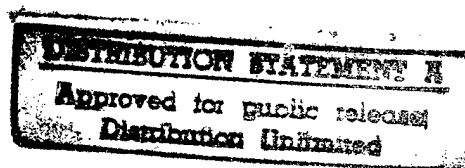


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JPRS 82613

10 January 1983



Worldwide Report

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY,
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 255

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NOTICE

Beginning with this issue, material on Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will be listed under NEAR EAST/SOUTH ASIA in the table of contents.

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10 January 1983

WORLDWIDE REPORT

TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

No. 255

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM--The new communications system linking the defense services of Australia, the United States and New Zealand has begun operating. The system links the Defense Department offices in Canberra with centers in the New Zealand capital of Wellington and the American Defense facilities in Hawaii. Defense Minister Sinclair says the system will provide a facility for data transmission and has eight times the capacity of the communications network it replaces. [BK210911 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 21 Oct 82]

CSO: 5500/4317

INSTALLATION OF DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS VIEWED

Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 11 Oct 82 p 2

[Article: "Indonesians To Have First Digital Telecommunications System in Southeast Asia"]

[Text] Indonesia will be the first Southeast Asian nation to use digital equipment for a telecommunications system. It is expected that the new technology will be used not only to provide telephone service but will be able to serve other sectors, Deutrich, an official of West Germany's Siemens AG Company explained on Friday [8 October].

On that occasion Deutrich, a Siemens representative, concluded a contract with the Indonesian side to develop the digital telecommunications system. The contract is valued at more than DM158.5 [as published] or more than 42.6 billion rupiah. Several Communications Department state companies entered into the contract with Siemens.

The contract between Siemens and PERUMTEL [Telecommunications Corporation] covers the supply of 46,500 central digital telephone switching units and 6,000 central telephone switching units for Cengkareng Airport. The contract is valued at more than DM70 million.

Another contract was agreed upon by Siemens and PT Inti, a state company subordinate to the Communications Department, which produces telecommunications equipment. In this case Siemens is obligated to furnish and install basic materials production facilities (a plant) during the first year of the contract. Components to be produced include 100,000 central digital telephone switching units and 5,000 EPABX (electronic private branch exchange) switching units. The contract is valued at DM79.6 million.

The final contract was entered into by Siemens and PT Indosat, a state company that handles international telecommunications. The contract covers the provision and installation of an International II dissemination center in Medan. It is valued at more than DM8.8 million.

It is expected that the digital telephone system will be in operation in Indonesia in early 1984. This is a new system and only a few nations such as the United States and West Germany are using it. To date Indonesia has been using an analog system. Only about 800,000 telephone connections are available under

this old system. It is expected that 1.25 million more telephone connections will be available with the digital system which uses a computer. The first phase for the installation of this system will begin in 1984.

According to information received, this digital system will be in service after it is reviewed by BPPT (Technology Application and Analysis Board). One of the advantages of this new system is that it requires very little space compared to the ordinary analog system so we will be able to economize in this respect.

Eng S. Abdulrachman, acting post and telecommunications director general, said that for the first time in history, telecommunications development has been undertaken in an integrated way, that is by furnishing both a telecommunications system and the supporting equipment, including a plant. It is expected that Siemens, which has performed well in installing telecommunications networks in the past, will perform even better in this understanding. Eng Abdulrachman also expects the new system to be of optimal benefit to the public.

6804

CSO: 5500/8502

LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATION TELEPHONE PROJECTS REPORTED

Shenyang-Qinhuangdao

Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese 3 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by Yang Honglin [2799 3163 2651]: "Shenyang-Qinhuangdao Communication Cable and Long Distance Telephone Project Near Completion"]

[Text] The Shenyang-to-Qinhuangdao communication cable and long distance telephone project is near completion. By the first quarter of 1983, long distance telephone calls from Shenyang to Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Nanjijn, Xian and Changchun can be dialed directly.

The Qinhuangdao-to-Shenyang communication cable and long distance telephone project is an important construction project to provide communication between the northeast region and major inland cities. In this project more than 400 kilometers of underground communication cables were installed that will provide simultaneous telephone service to 480 pairs of users. The cable runs from Shanhaiguan, through Jinzhou and Panshan to Shenyang. The cable installation began in September 1979 and was finished in July 1981. The associated long distance automatic telephone exchange project began in October, 1980, including the installation of a computer system, automatic exchange, and automatic counting and timing devices. With this equipment, such information as which units made how many long distance calls to what cities for how long can be recorded accurately and the monthly bills will be based on such records. To date, more than 90 percent of the installation work of these devices has been completed and the equipment is expected to be put into service in the first quarter of next year.

After this engineering project is completed, the long distance communication capability will be greatly enhanced and a vast number of telephone users will enjoy the convenience. At the present time a long distance caller must first register and take a number and wait for a notice from the long distance station; it takes at least 20 or 30 minutes and may take as long as one hour or more to place a long distance call. In the future all the users in the Shenyang long distance automatic exchange network may pick up the phone at any time and directly dial a number in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Nanjing, Xian and Changchun and it will take only a couple of minutes to go through. This facility will also ease the shortage of electric circuits in the industrial cities of Jinxi, Panshan and Jinzhou in Liaoning Province.

Fuzhou-Xiamen, Zhangzhou

Fuzhou FUJIAN RIBAO in Chinese 5 Oct 82 p 1

[Article by the Fujian 801 Engineering Command: "Fuzhou to Xiamen and Zhangzhou Long Distance Communication Symmetrical Cable Project Completed"]

[Text] The long distance communication symmetrical cable carrier project from Fuzhou to Xiamen and Zhangzhou has been completed and began its test operation on September 1. The facility has been running normally and stably in the past month and will be formally turned over to the state in 1983.

This project began at the end of 1978 after the Third Plenary Session of the 11th Party Central Committee. Under the full support of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and the provincial leadership and various levels of government, the design staff made a masterful design, the engineering crew collaborated closely with the vast number of civilian laborers and people living along the communication line and they worked diligently for 3 years and overcame many difficulties and finally completed the entire project according to plan at the end of August. The provincial Posts and Telecommunications Bureau organized a turn-over inspection in mid August, the project was found to be of sound engineering quality, the technical levels of machine building construction carrier facility installation, and underground cable installation were found to be all above the Ministry-specified standards and the construction cost was lower than the average cost of similar projects in China. This communication project covers a distance of 360 kilometers along which there are five carrier voice enhancing stations, switch stations and terminals, 25 remote controlled voice enhancing stations, 50 machine rooms, station rooms, section rooms, and water line rooms and the cable can carry 480 channels.

Up to this time all the long distance communications in Fujian have made use of aerial lines, had only 12 carrier channels with a small capacity, and the ability to resist natural disaster and communication confidentiality were both poor. The current system cannot meet the needs for carrying out special policy and versatile measures in the four modernizations construction in Fujian. After this new project is officially put on-line, it will change the current backward status in communication facilities and greatly satisfy the interprovincial and international communication needs of Fujian Province, especially the Xiamen special region and cities and townships along the coastline.

Nanxingqiao District

Hangzhou ZHEJIANG RIBAO in Chinese 19 Sep 1982 p 1

[Article by Xu Dasheng [1776 6671 3932]: "Automatic Telephone Exchange in Nanxingqiao District, Hangzhou, Now in Operation"]

[Text] The 2000-unit automatic telephone exchange newly built by the Telecommunications Bureau of Hangzhou municipality has been open for service

as of 10 pm 18 September. This city telephone sixth precinct is located at Haiyyueqiao in Jianggan District. In the past there were only 400 manual telephone exchanges in the Nanxingqiao district and the users were inconvenienced by the manual exchange. With the support of related departments, the Telecommunication Bureau of Hangzhou municipality built the new automatic telephone branch in Nanxingqiao. With the concerted effort of the engineering and technical staff a prefix "6" in the Nanxingqiao district have been smoothly connected into the automatic exchange as of 10 pm last night. With the addition of 2000 units of automatic telephone, the capacity of the city telephone in Nanxingqiao has quadrupled and the telephone connection rate has been greatly increased.

9698

CSO: 5500/4106

BRIEFS

ROMANIAN-SYRIAN RADIO PROTOCOL--Bucharest AGERPRES 3/11/82--A protocol of collaboration was signed in Bucharest between the Romanian radio and television and the Syrian radio and television, which provides for bilateral exchanges apt to intensify the relations between the two radio and television institutes. [Text] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1857 GMT 3 Nov 82 AU]

RADIO-TELEVISION PROTOCOL WITH YUGOSLAVIA--Bucharest AGERPRES 4/11/82--A working protocol was signed in Bucharest on November 4 between the Romanian radio and television and the Yugoslav radio and television. The document provides for bilateral collaboration actions to contribute to the steady development of the relations between the Romanian radio and television and the radio and television organizations in Yugoslavia. The protocol was signed for Romania by Ilie Radulescu, director general of the Romanian radio and television, and for Yugoslavia by Svetislav Maslesa, director general of the Sarajevo radio and television, head of the Yugoslav radio and television delegation who are paying a visit to Romania. [Text] [AU042133 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 2008 GMT 4 Nov 82]

CSO: 5500/3004

YUGOSLAVIA

'TANJUG' REPORTS CHANGES IN SKOPJE BROADCASTING SYSTEM

LD091148 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1505 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] Skopje, 8 Dec (TANJUG)--At today's session the section for information activity of the Macedonian SAWP Republic conference gave its support to the draft program for Skopje radio and television next year. It was pointed out that the Skopje radio and television programs in 1983 will be oriented toward implementing the Congress decisions and economic stabilization, while particular attention will be devoted to three very important jubilees: The 40th anniversary of the second session of the antifascist Council of National Liberation of Yugoslavia, the 10th anniversary of the formation of the Macedonian Communist Party and the 50th anniversary of the Ilinden uprising.

Efforts will also be made to improve the quality of programs and content on all three Skopje radio channels both in Macedonian and in the languages of the nationalities living in the Socialist Republic of Macedonia. In addition to other innovations, Skopje Radio announces the introduction of a 24-hour service on its first program throughout the week, not merely twice weekly as hitherto.

In place of the "classic" first and second television channels, it is announced that next year large production entities will be formed, in which human and material capacities will be much more rationally and efficiently used. These entities will try to ensure high-quality television broadcasts and programs for both channels of the Skopje television studios. Another new feature is the introduction of a regional chronicle on Skopje television about life as a whole in the Macedonian capital, by means of contact programs and broadcasts. In 1983 Skopje television plans to carry six weekend programs, to introduce new sports programs and other projects with the aim of improving program quality, thereby fulfilling the responsible task which the enterprise accomplishes in our information and sociopolitical system as a whole.

CSO: 5500/3003

YUGOSLAVIA

PRISTINA RADIO INSTALLS LARGER TRANSMITTER

AU262047 Pristina Domestic Service in Albanian 1800 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Excerpts] With the aid of all social structures in the province and the community at large, the collective of Pristina Radio-Television solemnly marks Republic Day on 29 November with the inauguration of a new 1,000-kilowatt transmitter. With the installation of the new transmitter, Radio Pristina enters the ranks of the most powerful in Europe and the country.

This is what Dragan Markovic, director of Radio Pristina had to say: Pristina Radio programs are broadcast in Albanian, Serbo-Croatian and Turkish on the first and second program. [Passage indistinct] It must be added that the first program on Saturday and Sunday broadcasts uninterruptedly for 24 hours, beginning at 0500 [0400 GMT]. On weekdays it broadcasts 19 hours daily, beginning at 0500 and closing at 2405. The second program begins at 1100 and closes at 1855. This means that it broadcasts almost 8 hours during the day. Radio Pristina has a wide field of cooperation with all other radio-television stations in the country and particularly [passage indistinct] for the joint broadcasting of programs, in covering all important news, in technical cooperation and all other spheres. Technical and program cooperation and the assistance given in the development of regional stations in our province also form part of the activity and solicitude of Radio Pristina as the primary broadcasting station in the province.

The higher level of audibility of our program means a greater penetration of the truth about us in Europe and the world. We will thus be able to more effectively inform our workers abroad and other listeners about all aspects of our life and use the truth to unmask all disinformation and hostile propaganda directed against our country and citizens. Our programs next year will surely be of higher quality and richer in their content.

CSO: 5500/3003

YUGOSLAVIA

BRIEFS

NEW ZAGREB TV TRANSMITTER--Titova Korenica--A new transmitter for the second channel of Zagreb Television was commissioned at the Pljesevica Mountain, Lika, on Friday. The transmitter will operate on channel 53 and will cover the region from Plitvicka Jezera to Udbina. [Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 27-30 Nov 82 p 16]

TV TRANSMITTER FOR HUNGARIANS--Lendava, 1 Dec (TANJUG)--From Sunday members of the Hungarian national minority living in Prekmurje, Slovenia, will be able to follow the television programs of neighboring Hungary. To mark the Yugoslav national holiday, a new television transmitter has been commissioned in the village of Lakos. This will give Hungarians in Slovenia further opportunities to maintain links with their mother nation. The transmitter cost 4.7 million dinars and represents a fresh step in implementation of the constitutionally established rights of nationalities to contacts with their mother nation. [Text] [Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1550 GMT 1 Dec 82]

NEW RADIO TRANSMITTER--Pula: Pula and Rijeka radio stations will start transmitting on 29 November over a new joint 7 kw transmitter located on Mount Ucka. The two stations will transmit their programs on 100.3 mhs from 1100 to 1800 GMT on weekdays and from 0700 to 1400 GMT on Sundays. On weekdays Pula Radio will transmit from 1100 to 1400. From 1400 to 1430 GMT the transmitter will relay Zagreb Radio's news of the day news program. Rijeka Radio will transmit from 1430 to 1800 GMT. On Sundays the two stations will transmit a joint program. [LD181504 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2057 GMT 17 Nov 82]

CSO: 5500/3003

'RADIO MARTI' SEEN AS SPECIAL CASE OF AGGRESSION

PA201730 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Nov 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] Everything indicates that at the end of this month, the plan to establish a radio station directed against the Cuban revolution will be submitted to the U.S. Senate. President Ronald Reagan recently requested the approval of the budget, estimated at \$5.3 million, for this project.

The U.S. plans to install a radio station hostile to Cuba were being drafted even before Reagan arrived in the White House. They are included in the Santa Fe document, drafted by the most reactionary U.S. groups.

Cuba's position on the official U.S. plan to organize and finance an anti-Cuban radio station was strengthened this week by a nonaligned resolution. A nonaligned committee for cooperation among radio broadcasting organizations thoroughly analyzed this new U.S. action against Cuba and approved a document that joins other international positions in demanding an end to these provocative plans.

The more than 20 countries that participated in the Havana meeting demanded an end to such a project against Cuba or any other nonaligned country. They called on the United Nations, UNESCO and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations to condemn this action as a violation of the essential principles of international law.

The nonaligned countries' resolution added that the plan to install an anti-Cuban station, financed, organized and legalized by the United States, constitutes interference in Cuba's domestic affairs and an affront against the Cuban people.

This resolution, which will be submitted to the seventh nonaligned summit in India in March, gains particular importance if one takes into account the extensive and detailed discussion that led to its approval and that clearly warned of the dangerous confrontations and unforeseen consequences that might result from the U.S. plan.

The details debated by the delegates clearly reveal that the new U.S. anti-Cuban plan to use radio as an instrument of aggression against Cuba differs from other attacks of this kind being experienced by underdeveloped countries. In the case of this anti-Cuban station, it is an official action, included in the policy of a government and expressed in a Presidential order. In this way, the Reagan government gives itself the right to officially attack another country by using radio. The preparations were carried out long before the U.S. legislative bodies approved the plan. Even before the approval of the project -- which the Senate has yet to debate -- the U.S. Navy had begun the installation of a transmitter with four 250-foot towers and with directional antennas for medium-wave transmissions.

This kind of hostile action against a sovereign state has aroused concern in several countries, whether they are victims of propaganda campaigns and distorted reports by the transnational corporations or not. Ethiopia, Mali, Ghana, Algeria, Guinea, Angola, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Grenada and other countries that participated in the recent meeting in Havana expressed grave concern about the U.S. plan against Cuba. They warned that though the project is now directed against the Cubans, it could in future be aimed at any other country.

CSO: 5500/2022

BRIEFS

'PRELA' SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH 'SPK'--The news agency PRENSA LATINA and the Kampuchean news agency SPK have signed a cooperation and exchange agreement in Phnom Penh. The agreement was signed by Gustavo Robreno, director general of PRENSA LATINA, and by Em Saman, director general of SPK. Last week, PRENSA LATINA also renewed its agreements with the Vietnamese and Lao news agencies. [Text] [PA080256 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Nov 82]

NONALIGNED BROADCASTERS CONFERENCE--The ninth conference of the Nonaligned Movement's cooperation committee of the radio broadcasting media will be held 9-11 November 1982 at the Palace of conventions [in Havana]. A total of 19 countries of the 32 that make up the committee and the UNESCO have confirmed their attendance. Orestes Gispert, vice president of the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television and chairman of the committee organizing the conference, said that many of the conclusions will be analyzed at the seventh conference of heads of state or governments. This broadcasting conference is being held at a time when imperialism is escalating its warmongering policy. [Text] [FL051536 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1428 GMT 5 Nov 82]

CSO: 5500/2022

EL SALVADOR

NEW CLANDESTINE RADIO HEARD IN CAPITAL

PA020114 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1818 GMT 1 Nov 82

[Text] Another clandestine radio station, Reorientacion, was heard in the capital this morning. It broadcasts on frequencies adjacent to those of the other guerrilla stations that supposedly broadcast from somewhere in Morazan Department.

The new unauthorized station makes constant appeals to those who are involved in warlike actions, inviting them to a dialogue without weapons, in the words of the station's announcers.

The station does not identify itself, but states that its newscasts can be heard at 1200 and 1830 daily.

CSO: 5500/2023

EL SALVADOR

FMLN SAYS REGIME HAS FALSE REVOLUTIONARY STATION

PAO22332 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 2 Nov 82

[Text] For 2 years now, Radio Venceremos has defeated the fascist misinformation disseminated by the regime, which has tried in every way to hide its crimes and to conceal the FMLN's political and military victories. It has tried to broadcast very loud music over our guerrilla frequency so that the people would be unable to hear us, but it has failed. It has failed even with the most modern technological methods supplied by the U.S. Embassy.

Every military victory by and proposal of the FMLN is immediately known throughout the world. We are viewed as a responsible and objective news source. Most of the news dispatches on El Salvador cite Radio Venceremos. This is a great defeat for the Salvadoran dictatorship.

Now that we are talking about dialogue and about searching for political solutions to this conflict, the regime has discontinued its desperate musical broadcasts over our signal. Instead, it has installed a radio station with announcers that our people have already identified. They know who they are and where they live. This fascist station is trying to deceive the people. It has used pseudorevolutionary language in an attempt to make the FMLN appear divided.

Obviously, Garcia is not only losing the war; with this maneuver, he has proven that he has even lost his imagination. No one can credit such a clumsy and mediocre maneuver. The best reply to this station, which fascism has placed over our frequency, is strong and indestructible revolutionary unity, expressed through coordinated and victorious actions throughout the country.

Garcia cannot forgive Radio Venceremos for being the main news source for the Salvadoran people. To finish off the fascist beast, Radio Venceremos is broadcasting every night at 2030 on FM for San Salvador. This demonstrates our military capability, our political control over large areas of the country and our technical ability to foil the desperate lies.

CSO: 5500/2023

PANAMA

BRIEFS

TELEVISION AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN--Rodlfo Garcia de Paredes Chiari, president of Televisora Nacional, Inc, and Yee Chien Chiu, of the Taiwan Television Service, today signed a cultural cooperation and exchange agreement. The agreement was signed in the Televisora Nacional offices with the attendance of Taiwan Embassy personnel and television station executives. [PA082353 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 82]

NEW MICROWAVE SYSTEM--The cabinet session held on Tuesday approved the acquisition of a 960-channel microwave communications system that will improve the telephone network connecting the western sector of Panama Province with the rest of the interior. This system, which will be implemented by INTEL [National Telecommunications Institute], will cost 602,523 balboas. [PA082353 Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish 8 Dec 82 pp 1, 8-A]

CSO: 5500/2021

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

ARAB FUND AGREEMENTS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROJECT

GFI71130 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 15 Dec 82 p 4

[Text] Five loan agreements were separately signed yesterday at the headquarters of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development [AFESD] with Jordan, Tunisia, Syria, Morocco and Djibouti, a press release said.

The loans totalling 5.1 million KD will assist in partial financing of the fifth pan-Arab telecommunications project (earth station) in the five Arab states, the release by AFESD added.

The proposed project aims at installing and equipping the earth stations related to the ground sector of Arab satellite network in the above five Arab countries; the rest of the Arab world will install the earth stations related to them.

This network aims at linking all parts of the Arab world and at complementing the earth telecommunications network currently under construction or expansion.

Additionally, the satellite network will act as an alternative routing part of the traffic should the ground links be of action.

The project will participate in meeting the increasing traffic and telex demands, transmitting sound and television programs and provide new telecommunications facilities.

The project total cost is estimated at KD13.25 million of which KD 12.0 million is in foreign currencies, the release added.

This project is the Arab Fund participation in its financing in the inter-Arab telecommunications sector. These projects were:

--Inter Arab telecommunications I project which links Morocco with Algeria in 1975.

--Inter Arab telecommunications II project which links Iraq, Syria, Jordan with Saudi Arabia in 1980.

--Inter Arab telecommunication III project which links Saudi Arabia, North Yemen, South Yemen, Djibouti with Somalia in 1981.

--Inter Arab telecommunication IV project which links Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia with Libya in 1981.

--Inter Arab telecommunications V project (earth stations in Algeria, Djibouti, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Somalia, South Yemen, Sudan, Syria and Tunisia) in 1982.

Arab Fund participation in the financing of these projects are KD 35.6 million.

CSO: 5500/4512

SAUDI DAILY ON NEW PALESTINIAN RADIO IN IRAQ

PM100957 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic 7 Nov 82 pp 1, 19

[Unattributed report: "Private Iraqi Plane for 'Arafat and Palestinian Radio in Baghdad"]

[Text] Bahrain--Informed Palestinian sources have stated that the Iraqi Government has decided to give PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat a private plane plus crew as a gift for him to use in his movements. The sources added that this decision was conveyed to 'Arafat by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn personally during 'Arafat's recent visit to Iraq.

A responsible PLO source has revealed that, during that same meeting, the Palestinian leader asked Iraq to give the Palestinian revolution a radio station with which to address the masses in the occupied territory, to replace the radio station [Mahattat Idha'ah] which used to transmit from southern Lebanon.

The sources said that the Iraqi president granted 'Arafat's request and issued instructions to the responsible authorities to place an entire radio station at the disposal of the PLO.

Nabil al-'Umar, member of Fatah's Revolutionary Council and head of the radio stations [as published], has told AL-RIYAD that the station is being prepared for transmission to begin at the beginning of the new year, marking the anniversary of the Palestinian revolution.

He added that the Palestinian transmitters will be installed in the area of Al-Rutbah, in Iraq, which is close to the Jordanian border, which means that the Voice of the Palestinian Revolution from Baghdad will be clearly heard in occupied Palestine, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

The Palestinian official also said that the Iraqi forces would provide the necessary protection for the transmitters against Israeli air raids which might be launched to silence the Palestinian voice.

He emphasized that the PLO leadership will centrally supervise the policy of the new station, which will broadcast in three languages--Arabic, English and

Hebrew--initially for 6 hours daily. It will be the main station of the Palestinian revolution, which also broadcasts from Algiers, San'a and Aden.

The Voice of Palestine has temporarily begun transmitting for 1 hour a day on one of the Iraqi Voice of the Masses frequencies.

In the past the PLO had a radio station in the Syrian area of Dar'a near the Jordanian border, but the Syrian authorities demolished the building during the Syrian-Palestinian conflict when Syrian forces entered Lebanon in 1976. The Syrian authorities refused to allow the PLO to rebuild this station after the PLO's withdrawal from Beirut.

A responsible Iraqi source has told AL-RIYAD that the Iraqi authorities would not interfere at all in the policies of the Palestinian radio station. He added that the PLO would be completely free to draw up and execute the informational policies it deems fit for the new station.

CSO: 5500/4512

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

BRIEFS

AMMAN MONITORING CENTER--Tunis, 19 Dec (KUNA)--The Arab Broadcasting Union agreed on Sunday to erect a radio monitoring centre in Amman, Jordan, and a programme and news center in Algiers. The decision was reached here today after 3 days of meetings of the Arab Broadcasting Union. The meeting approved a budget of 1,830,000 dollars for 1983 to [word indistinct] various activities including studies on evaluation and promoting of Arab radio stations and seminars on the subject. [Word indistinct] elected to the membership of the administrative council of the union and Abdallah Shaagroun [KUNA spelling] elected secretary general of the union for the coming 4 years. [Text]
[LD191842 Kuwait KUNA in English 1715 GMT 19 Dec 82]

CSO: 5500/4512

IRAN

RADIO, TV DIRECTOR ON SINGAPORE CONFERENCE, JAPAN VISIT

LD251946 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Oct 82

[Interview with Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by unidentified correspondent in Tehran, date unspecified--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, you attended the session of the Union of Radio and Television of Asian Countries in Singapore, would you please tell us what issues were raised in this session, and what results were achieved?

[Answer] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful, one of the issues raised was the Los Angeles olympics: Iran moved to ban the coverage of this program; but some of the union members were of the view that the union should cover the games. In all, the decision made was that the union should not cover the Los Angeles olympics. But member countries which might be under internal pressure--and this point was referred to repeatedly--can go ahead and sign contracts to cover the games.

The other point raised was the issue of news coverage. This point has been discussed for a time, but at this session it was resolved and approved. In order to break the present prevalent imperialist influence on news and to stop the hold of Western countries on news coverage two central news departments are to be set up within the union which would exchange news [word indistinct], a news exchange center. One of these departments will be in Tehran and the other in Malaysia. The preliminary steps and the basics were approved. It was decided that in order to finalize the instructions, the methods used and the starting date two meetings will be held: One in Tokyo and one in India. The center to which we belong will participate in the meeting in India and our colleagues will participate in this meeting to follow up the work. The Tokyo center will hold its meeting and then the results will be exchanged.

[Question] Following your trip to Malaysia, you went to Japan. Would you please tell us what objectives you had in this trip, and did you meet with Japanese media officials?

[Answer] In Japan our main objective was to visit research centers working in satellites and space. As you are informed, we hope to use satellite systems in the near future, and in order to acquire the technology to build receiving stations we need assistance. Following our meetings with industrial, space and media officials we came to the conclusion that the technology involved in the receiving stations and the satellites should be given to us to enable us to build these stations in Iran ourselves. It is noteworthy that with the facilities we have at present we are able to build 80 percent of these stations at present, and for the other 20 percent we need assistance from abroad. In our meetings with Japanese officials it was decided that they should undertake the work. The second issue was the sale of television transmitters. Japan had already taken part in the announced tender, and their bids were more favorable than others. While we were there the contracts for the sale of television transmitters were signed.

CSO: 5500/4710

BRIEFS

NEW TRANSMITTERS--Zahedan: Two new television transmitters have been installed in the Baluchestan area by the engineers and dedicated employees of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the cooperation of the network expansion unit. One of the transmitters is in Dujjing [Dejang-e Bala] located 60 kilometers inside the Khash District. It has a capacity of 10 watts and will cover the villages of (Kahnuk) and (Dehpayeh), Eslamabad and (Nukabad). Compatriots residing in this area will be able to view the programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on channel 8. The other transmitter which has a strength of 50 watts is expected to cover the area of Qasr-e Qand in Chah Bahar District. [Text] [GF041446 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 25 Aug 82 p 4]

ESFAHAN TELEVISION INAUGURATION--The television relay station of (Hanna) which was completed by the Esfahan technical unit was opened on the occasion of 'Id. The relay will enable local citizens to watch the programs of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Channel 4. [GF010530 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 7 Oct 82]

NEW ANTIREGIME RADIO--Some time ago a Persian-language radio calling itself Radio Univers started broadcasting in Paris. In addition to a variety of programs, this radio also airs talks in which it discusses the positions and activities of "opposition" groups and their leaders. IRAN-E AZAD's information sources have learned that, following recent criticism by officials and moderators of this radio of the modes of activity and misbehavior of one of these political groups (that claims to have formed a front for Iran's salvation), a meeting was held by those who were the targets of this criticism. They decided to hire a lawyer and to file a suit so as to silence the radio's voice of criticism. They also decided to use their influence through their own network and to make French officials obstruct the continuation of the radio's activities. Although IRAN-E AZAD does not agree with the mode of activity and the political inclinations of Radio Univers' officials (and IRAN-E AZAD has itself been the target of several sarcastic remarks by this radio), nevertheless it declares that it will fight against those who violate freedom of speech and against those who try, by resorting to dastardly means, to silence yet another Iranian voice. [Text] [NC181144 Paris IRAN-E AZAD in Persian 30 Oct 82 p 5]

KURDISH RADIO STILL OPERATIONAL--We start our news today with a report from Kurdistan. The radio of Iranian Kurdistan continues to broadcast its programs against Khomeyni's regime. Our correspondent in Azarbayjan in a dispatch sent to us this afternoon--we received it at our clandestine headquarters moments ago--states that he has heard the Democratic Party radio and thus the report by the dishonored radio of the Islamic Republic is a lie. The occupied Tehran radio, the voice of the dishonored regime of Khomeyni, had reported that guards had taken 90 km of Sar Dasht-Piranshahr road and while pushing the Kurdish fighters back, had managed to destroy the Democratic Party's transmitter. Our correspondent reports the regime's guards in their battle with Kurdish fighters destroyed one transformer and its associated distribution system and then reported that they had destroyed the Democrat's radio transmitter. The radio cannot be heard in most parts of the country and can only be heard on the border areas. This radio has been broadcasting programs against the antinationalist regime of Khomeyni for nearly 3 years. [Text] [GF171805 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 17 Nov 82]

BUSHEHR TRANSMITTER OPENED--The powerful 50-kilowatt radio transmitter at Bushehr was officially opened by Mr Hashemi, Voice and Vision of Iran director-general, in the presence of the members of the supervisory council of this organization this evening and has now begun operations. [Excerpt] [GF190754 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 Nov 82]

BUSHEHR TELEVISION STATION--The new Bushehr 10 kw television station, the construction of which started 18 months ago, was opened by the managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr Hashemi, yesterday morning. Members of the organization's managing council and the Bushehr governor general were present at the ceremonies. This television transmitter can now bring the rest of the province and some of the countries of the Persian Gulf region into coverage area. [Text] [GF201852 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 20 Nov 82]

KHORASAN RELAY STATIONS--The television relay stations at Raz, (Jargalan) and Gholaman in Bojnurd District in northwestern Khorasan have gone into operation. Residents of this area are now able to view programs on channels 5 and 7. [GF060602 Mashhad Domestic Service in Persian 1430 GMT 4 Dec 82]

IRNA OFFICES IN TOKYO--Tokyo, 16 Oct (IRNA)--The 15th branch of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) abroad was opened here on Saturday in the presence of IRNA's Managing Director Dr Kamal Kharrazi, International Department Director Dr Fathollah Farhadi and Mr Rahbar, the local correspondent of the news agency, in Tokyo. [Excerpt] [LD170153 Tehran IRNA in English 0933 GMT 16 Oct 82]

CSO: 5500/4710

BROADCASTS IN JORDAN VALLEY DISRUPTED BY JORDAN, SYRIA

TA130933 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Dec 82

[Text] Television reception in the north has been disrupted, and this is not a new phenomenon. However, while only declarations have been made on this issue in Israel the Jordanians are continuing to grow more sophisticated. Hayim Hecht defines the present situation as intolerable.

[Begin recording] [Hecht] A huge transmitter that the Syrians positioned at the Jordan-Israel-Syria border point has disrupted television broadcast reception in the Jordan Valley for over 2 years now. The Syrians especially get the television newsreels.

Two weeks ago Jordanian television proudly declared that it has improved services to its viewers. The Jordanians positioned a new transmitter facing the Jordan Valley and the valley inhabitants indeed enjoy improved reception of the Amman broadcasts. Many have already given up the dubious enjoyment of watching dancing lines whenever they try to receive Israeli broadcasts.

Such a situation is intolerable, say MK Beni Shalita, the head of the Menahemya local council.

[Shalita] We from Menahemya and from the entire Jordan Valley can see this Jordanian boosting transmitter. I am very surprised that even in this era, when there are no diplomatic relations with Jordan, we still cannot hold a dialogue with them via a third party to bring the seriousness of the matter to their attention. This is not the first time that Jordan has overpowered our broadcasts, done what it pleases and cared nothing about our channels of transmission.

[Hecht] MK Shalita suggests that we should take action, that we should disrupt Jordanian television broadcasts in return. [End recording]

CSO: 5500/4511

EXPANSION, MODERNIZATION OF FRANCEVILLE TELEPHONE NETWORK

Libreville L'UNION in French 29 Oct 82 p 2

[Article by Ogandaga-D'Ekarapango: "Franceville: Expansion of the Telephone Network"]

[Text] Large-scale work is being done at present to expand and modernize the surface-underground telephone network of Franceville, the provincial capital of Haut-Ogooue. The work, which was started last May, is being done by the French telecommunications company, ERATEL [expansion unknown].

According to information supplied by Mr Ahmed, an official of that company, the new Franceville telephone network will consist of 11,000 meters of wire, 30 kilometers of surface-underground cables and about 500 subscriber lines. Similar work is also being done at Moanda and has been completed in Ndjole, Moyen-Ogooue Province.

In the last-named locality, the new telephone network which consists of 14,000 meters of civil engineering, 15,000 meters of surface-underground cables and 200 subscriber lines was placed in service a little over 2 months ago and is operating perfectly.

In Franceville and Moanda, start-up is scheduled for next December. In addition to these three cities, five other localities are involved in this program, namely Lambarene (Moyen-Ogooue), Mouila (Ngounie), Oyem and Bitam (Woleu-Ntem) and Koula-Moutou (Ogooue-Lolo). Ahmed says that the overall project could be finished in June 1983. He also said that a little bit everywhere the work consists of civil engineering, the installation of a network of conduits and subscriber lines, the laying and hooking up of underground cables and the installation of surface lines.

In the cities involved in this telephone network expansion and modernization project, there will be about 1,200 subscribers. The overall cost of this operation is 911,437,893 CFA francs, which is entirely financed by the Gabonese state. It is important to note that the implementation of this vast and ambitious program is aimed basically at improvement of the communications system of our country. What is more, it was the result of an international call for bids that this contract was signed by the Gabonese state and "ERATEL-Telecommunications."

According to the ERATEL chief of mission in Gabon, it should also be stated for the purposes of information that ERATEL is represented in Algeria, Tunisia, Gabon and France, where it has its company office.

It should also be noted that performance control is being exercised by local officials of the Office of Posts and Telegraphs. ERATEL has been in our country for about 2 years.

8143

CSO: 5500/54

SOUTH AFRICA'S ATTEMPT TO CONTROL BOPHUTHATSWANA TV CALLED 'CHILDISH'

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 Dec 82 p 1

[Article by Frederick Cleary: "Fear of English Stymies New TV"]

[Text] MMABATHO--President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana has criticised what he called South Africa's childish attitude towards the establishment of television in his country.

"We have an agreement that we will have a television service of our own. We have our people living in South Africa and we want to reach them.

"But the South African Government is adopting delaying tactics over whether we will speak to people in English or Afrikaans. We find this totally unacceptable," he said.

The President was speaking in an interview at his official residence last night on the eve of a long weekend of official celebrations to mark Bophuthatswanas fifth year of independence.

President Mangope said there were several areas in which he differed with the South African government. Television was a major issue which he was determined to resolve.

Bophuthatswana is not recognised internationally and cannot apply directly for a radio wavelength to establish a television service. Through international agreements South Africa controls radio wavelength space in this part of Africa.

Dilemma

Conversely the Pretoria Government is in a dilemma because, if it withholds Bophuthatswana's claim to establish its own television service and run it as it sees fit, claims by Pretoria that Bophuthatswana is independent will become ridiculous.

It is known that Mr Barend du Plessis, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Information, has been constantly in touch with Bophuthathswana on the issue.

He is believed to have said that the South African Government wants English and Afrikaans programmes to be broadcast at the same time from both stations.

He fears that, if Bophuthatswana broadcast in English when Afrikaans was being transmitted by the SABC, the majority of viewers in South Africa will switch to Bophuthatswana--especially if there were better programmes.

Should this happen many advertisers might switch their business to Bophuthatswana TV.

Rights

President Mangope said that, as South Africa and Bophuthatswana had an agreement in principle over the establishment of a television service, he had the right to reach his people in any language he chose.

"We have three official languages in this country--English, Afrikaans and Tswana--and our people use these languages accordingly.

"If the South African Government does not want her people to watch our programmes then it has the right to tell them accordingly. But, in turn, we have the right to reach our people."

The President said he hoped to have a Bophuthatswana television service in operation by the beginning of 1984.

CSO: 5500/63

WALVIS BAY COASTAL RADIO NETWORK DESCRIBED

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 2 Dec 82 p 19

[Article: "Tentacles of Radio Guard Skeleton Coast"]

[Text] WALVIS BAY--In a dust-free white building in the dunes of the Namib Desert, banks of sensitive equipment send their electronic tentacles over a radius of more than 1 500 nautical miles off the Skeleton Coast.

It is Walvis Bay coastal radio--one of the nerve centres in a complex international communications system that serves ships at sea.

Even aviators over the oceans know that the constant alertness and wakefulness of the men and women scanning the international radio frequencies at this coastal station could mean the difference between life and "lost at sea."

"An aircraft in trouble may have only one chance to send a Mayday message," says the chief superintendent of Walvis Bay Radio, Mr Chris Nagel

"In the old days all systems ceased as an aircraft hit the water. If we did not get the signal the first time we didn't get a second chance."

All aircraft and ships are now equipped with inflatable radio-carrying rafts that begin to transmit distress signals on impact.

Run by the South African Department of Posts and Telecommunications, Walvis Bay's coastal radio station is a link in a chain that runs from the Atlantic coast through Cape Town and Simonstown to Durban.

These stations are South Africa's contribution to the international navigation and communications service that spans the globe and links up with satellites.

An agreement of the Geneva-based International Telegraphic Union commits every government commanding a coastline to keep a 24-hour distress watch for safety of life at sea and over the seas.

Ocean-going vessels in distress can therefore rely for help at any time of the day or night through an intricate, but fast and accurate service.

"All reputable shipping companies subscribe to the worldwide Automated Mutual Assistance Vessels Rescue System (Amver)," Mr Nagel explained.

Amver requires its member ships to plot their courses and positions at regular daily intervals.

The information is processed into computers at stations throughout the world. In emergencies the computers can be ordered to flash a surface picture of any section of the oceans, indicating the positions, courses, capacity and facilities of every ship subscribing to Amver.

In addition to Amver, ships plying the busy routes off the Southern African coast can rely on the South African Sea and Rescue System (Sasar), which coordinates and assists rescue efforts.

In emergencies, coastal radio informs the SA Navy, the nearest port captain, the owners of the vessel concerned and Lloyds of London to whom is reported, as a matter of course, all casualties at sea.

The fiercely competitive salvage trade maintains round-the-clock monitoring of the international radio frequencies. For ethical reasons the salvors make contact with coastal radio in emergencies only after Lloyds has "opened form".

The usual salvage contract offered is "no cure, no pay", meaning that if a stricken vessel goes under the salvors receive nothing for their efforts--but the profits are handsome if the vessel is towed intact into port.

Walvis Bay's coastal radio also has an inland function. Namibia is a country of more than 823 000 square km. Over this expanse of land are scattered about one million people.

"In many parts of the country it does not pay the Post Office to erect telephone lines--elephants bring down the poles as soon as they are up, or the lines are damaged in the war areas," Mr Nagal said.

Radio telephone links have been established with the remote outposts. The channels have been reserved mostly for emergency calls, picked up by Walvis Bay coastal radio and switched into the national telephone network.

CSO: 5500/63

BRIEFS

PANAFTEL LINK INAUGURATED--Dodoma: All African countries will by the end of the year 1984 have at least earth satellite stations [as heard] in operation, while all African capitals will be connected to the Pan-African Telecommunication Network, PANAFTEL. This was said today by a representative of the secretary general of the International Telecommunication Union, ITU, Mr (Desta), at the inauguration ceremony of the PANAFTEL link for eastern and southern Africa in Dodoma. Mr (Desta) said the inauguration of the PANAFTEL network will enable Tanzania to have the direct telephone and telex link with other African countries like Jibuti, Ethiopia, Sudan, Zambia and Malawi without going through Europe as in the past. It is projected that in the coming two years, the PANAFTEL will extend to Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Botswana and Swaziland, thus making a reality of a north-south communication link from Cairo, in Egypt, to Gaborone, in Botswana. [Text] [EA161206 Dar Es Salaam in English to East Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 15 Dec 82]

CSO: 5500/64

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

SATELLITE LINKS TO NIGERIA--Acting power, transport and communications minister Haswell Mwale, has said that Zambia expected to open direct telephone, telex and telegraph services with Nigeria through satellite before January next year. This would enable the country to communicate with West Africa through Nigeria. He said this will be possible when the microwave link between Lubumbashi in Zaire and Chililabombe in Zambia is provided. [MB161737 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 16 Dec 82 MB]

CSO: 5500/64

BELGIUM

BRIEFS

PHILIPS, BELL AGREEMENT -- Philips and Bell have agreed in principle to cooperate in the development and sale of telecommunications installations and equipment outside the United States. Philips is even considering placing its whole telecommunications sector in a joint venture. The combined strength could benefit Philips' market position in Third World countries, especially in Southeast Asia. Thus, for example, in the competition for billion guilder contracts to develop the infrastructure for a telephone system in Malaysia, Philips was pushed out of the market by the combined Japanese competition. Cooperation, among other things in the area of digital telephone exchanges, offers Bell an entry into the world market, while it provides Philips with the necessary -- including financial -- muscle to be able to fight the Japanese strength in the telecommunications market. [Text] [Brussels KNACK in Dutch 13 Oct 82 p 81] 8463

CSO: 5500/2537

CYPRUS TO HOST NONALIGNED NEWS AGENCIES MEETING

NC190847 Nicosia THE CYPRUS WEEKLY in English 19-25 Nov 82

[Text] Cyprus is to host the next meeting of the coordinating committee of the non-aligned news agencies pool which is planned for some time next year. This was decided unanimously by the pool's third general conference in Tunis which was attended by delegates from over 55 countries as well as observers from several UN agencies and other organisations. The CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY was represented by Andreas Hadjipapas who also took part in the coordinating committee meeting held just before the general conference.

The conference was opened by Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzali. The Tunisian news agency TAP has now taken over the chairmanship of the pool (previously held by the Yugoslav news agency TANJUG) and TAP director-general Bechir Toual was authorised to present the resolutions, report and action programme adopted by the conference to the forthcoming non-aligned summit in Delhi.

There are now over 70 national news agencies in nonaligned countries participating in the pool which is trying to build up an alternative concept of news based on the principles and objectives of the Non-aligned Movement.

The pool seeks to establish an integrated telecommunications network linking all its members as part of its general aim of promoting a new international information order. Pool participants are committed to strive against all forms of aggression, foreign intervention and occupation.

The CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY was re-elected to the 25-member coordinating committee, for a new three-year period. Others include the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA, TANJUG, the news agencies of Iran and Iraq, MENA of Egypt and PRENSA LATINA of Cuba.

CSO: 5500/4714

PALME GOVERNMENT WILL BUILD TELE-X SATELLITE

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 19 Nov 82 p 6

[Article by Sven Svensson]

[Text] Tele-X, Scandinavia's experimental satellite, will be built. That has been announced to the Norwegian and Finnish Governments by the new Palme government. The ministers of industry from the three countries concerned will meet in December, and they are expected to give the go-ahead for a cooperation agreement. A draft agreement is practically complete following prolonged and difficult negotiations.

Tele-X is the largest Scandinavian joint industrial project ever discussed. The cost is estimated at 1.2 billion kronor, and the project is expected to give industry valuable experience in space activity.

The Norwegian Government had earlier asked the new Swedish Government to say whether it supported the Tele-X project. Both the Norwegian and the Finnish Governments have stated their support following discussion of the issue within their governments.

The intention is that Tele-X will be followed by new telecommunications satellites. Tele-X will therefore constitute the introduction to the so-called NORDSAT project. Tele-X is a one-time shot that will require further work in order to become a genuinely worthwhile joint project.

Cost To Be Shared

The talks between Sweden, Norway, and Finland included discussions leading to this result: Sweden will pay 64 percent, Norway 26 percent, and Finland 10 percent. This means that Sweden will pay 800 million kronor during the fiscal years from 1982-1983 to 1986-1987. The intention is to launch the satellite in 1987.

The Tele-X project will involve far-reaching industrial cooperation among the three countries. The firms have been highly interested in the talks concerning the contract.

The plans call for equipping Tele-X for experiments with the transmission of data, video, and direct TV. According to the original plans, Tele-X will have two channels for data and video and two for direct TV.

Norway's Electrical Bureau Corporation and Sweden's Ericsson telephone firm have already reached an agreement on cooperation in the development, production, and marketing of data terminals for the satellite system. Both firms are therefore particularly interested in seeing the Tele-X project go without a hitch.

11798

CSO: 5500/2548

NEW MINISTER AFTER U.S. VISIT: NO PAY TV OR COMMERCIAL TV

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 21 Nov 82 p 19

[Article by Ingemar Lofgren]

[Text] Neither commercial TV nor pay TV is suitable for Sweden. That is the opinion of Minister of Culture Bengt Goransson, who came home on Saturday following a 2-week stay in the United States, where, among other things, he sat in hotel rooms watching American TV.

The way things stand now, he prefers higher license fees as a way of overcoming Swedish Television's financial problems.

Bengt Goransson told DAGENS NYHETER: "What I saw in the United States strengthens my already negative impression, which is that we should be cautious about allowing commercials on television. And when it comes to pay TV, I dislike that as much as I do the idea of having different classes on trains."

The minister of culture was gone for 2 weeks, during which time--last week--Swedish Television issued a report on its study of pay TV. The report's authors, who prepared it for television chief Sam Nilsson, consider it urgent to introduce a pay TV system before 1986.

One reason for their eagerness is the desire to get things rolling before foreign satellites intrude upon Swedish television viewers.

Competition

Another reason is the desire to jump into the competition for video and film viewers as soon as possible as a way of improving television's poor finances without increasing the license fees.

TV chief Sam Nilsson said when the report was presented that pay TV would also result in better programs. Having more money would stimulate domestic production.

Coded Card

Sam Nilsson said that whether the system will be introduced or not now depends solely on the politicians.

One of the most important of those politicians is Bengt Goransson, but he has not yet had a chance to study the TV corporation's report.

Bengt Goransson says: "Until I am convinced that there will really be better TV programs, I will remain skeptical of pay TV. That is my spontaneous opinion."

The minister of culture's attitude will probably fuel the debate concerning both commercial TV and pay TV, but especially the latter.

Briefly, pay TV means that the viewer pays a special fee to be able to watch the programs. To receive the programs, it is necessary to have specially coded cards for various types of programs--for example, sports, feature films, or pure entertainment. The card is inserted into what is called a decoder.

Inequitable

The coded card, which is a sort of monthly card, could cost about 80 kronor per month, according to the authors of Swedish Television's report. Added to that would be the cost of supplementary equipment--about 200 kronor.

The pay TV system has been criticized in several quarters. For example, many people feel that it will become exclusive entertainment reserved only for those who can afford to shell out money over and above the ordinary TV license fees. That view is shared by Bengt Goransson.

"The danger is that we will have an inequitable system. I feel instead that we should have a Swedish TV system with domestic productions that reach everyone. We have a licensing system today that functions quite well--a system that allows maximum freedom for those who do the planning."

Higher License Fees

To overcome Swedish Television's financial problems, Bengt Goransson wants to increase license fees instead.

"I consider that a more natural way of doing it. But if it turns out that I am wrong, I will gladly change my opinion."

The final outcome of the pay-TV issue remains to be seen. The Television Board will reach a formal decision on pay TV in February 1983. After that, the government and Parliament will have their say.

11798
CSO: 5500/2555

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